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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Argentina/Spain

SUBJECT The Spanish Embassy, in Argentina

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. [REDACTED], the new Spanish Ambassador to Argentina, Jose Maria de Areilza Martinez Rodas, has privately expressed his disillusion and discontent because of the coolness of his reception in Argentina. Not only has he remarked on the coolness on the part of the Argentines, but also on the part of his own colleagues in the Embassy, most of whom are monarchists. He has blamed the coolness of the Spanish colony to the Falangist cause on the local Franco press, of which only one weekly now exists, Nuevo Correo; whereas, there are numerous anti-Franco Spanish periodicals.
2. Areilza has come to place a great deal of his trust in a newspaper correspondent, Mariano Daranas Romero, who accompanied him to Argentina. Daranas is a former ABC correspondent in Paris and has been named Press Attache at the Embassy in Argentina, along with Jesus Huarte. One of the problems of Daranas will be the reviving of Nuevo Correo. The Ambassador wishes to start an intense campaign of propaganda for the Franco regime, presenting it as similar to, and in harmony with, the Peron regime. Nuevo Correo is to be furnished with daily short-wave radio bulletins from Spain and abundant pictorial material, to be sent air mail from Spain. The Spanish correspondents in Argentina, Miquelarena, Vicente Fuente, Gongora, Vega Santander, etc., are to be required to contribute appropriate items, even though they do not sign their names to the articles. There will be sufficient funds for this project, so that there will be no need to rely on subscriptions or donations for support.
3. As a result of the visit of a Spanish military mission to Argentina, it is suggested that an Argentine military mission will shortly be sent to Spain.
4. One of the principal advisers of Areilza, and one who is apparently most trusted, is Jose Ignacio Ramos, leader of the Falangists in Argentina, and reported to have been in the service of the Germans. The latter is little liked by those around Areilza and is feared by many of them.
5. An attache of the Embassy in Argentina, Merry del Val, is reported to be a personal friend of the Ambassador, but because the former is the official representative in Argentina of the pretender, Don Juan, he has been critical of the Ambassador. Merry del Val is reported to be sending regular information to Don Juan on the political situation, interviews, and happenings at the Spanish Embassy.

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